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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

Working paper submitted by Austria

Drawing on the discussions which have taken place under the two sub-items "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" and "Science and technology for disarmament" as well as from different working papers submitted, the following points might be taken into consideration:

- Enhancement of scientific cooperation on a global level, including institutions like universities or private research centres.

- Increase of activities in science and technology for weapons destruction with special regard to verification activities, technologies for weapons modifications and environmentally sound destruction techniques.

- Verification of arms control and disarmament agreements is increasingly dependent on science and technology. Areas of application include satellite verification and observation, on-site inspection of chemical and nuclear weapons production facilities as well as seismic verification methods for nuclear testing. New fields of application might extend to verification results data centres, interrelated national informations centres, common projects such as shared verification satellites or "open skies".

- Restructuring of former weapons industries conditions the reconsideration of adequate applications of science and technology

and consequently allows for a reallocation of scarce commodities to integrated productive areas of the economy.

- The economic feasibility of such restructuring has to be assured. Thereby acquired experience in the field of science and technology can serve the entire community of States, whereby adequate consideration has to be given to the specific needs of the region or the country of application.

- Enhanced global cooperation regarding peaceful applications of science and technology requires the adoption of adequate and further-elaborated safeguards agreements and arrangements in order to ensure the use of such knowledge for peaceful purposes only. Thereby, universal participation in the elaboration of the respective provisions as well as in the implementation of a system of guarantees for their comprehensive and global application seems crucial.

- The so-called positive spin-offs of the arms race should be substituted by comparable results by concentrating research and technology to peaceful, however related, areas.